



# P R E S S   R E L E A S E

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## **PORTS OF SOUTH LOUISIANA AND ST. BERNARD CONDUCT LMR COMMUNICATION EXERCISE**

On December 16, 2014, the Ports of South Louisiana and St. Bernard conducted their fifth Lower Mississippi River (LMR) Maritime Security Operations Center (MSOC) functional communications exercise. Dubbed "Operation Smoke on the Water," the exercise was led by Lieutenant Eric Acosta and Lester Millet, III, which tested the following target capabilities: communications and incident command system (ICS), incident command and control of the MSOCs. Highlights included the following:

- The exercise was sanctioned and approved by the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Sector New Orleans (by fully participating, MTSA Coast Guard-regulated facilities received their yearly exercise credit)
- Multi-agency coordination – USCG Sector New Orleans, FBI New Orleans (Cyber Task Force), Infragard Louisiana, NOAA Slidell, and the four Lower Mississippi River ports
- Physical and cyber threats were exercised (FBI New Orleans activated their cyber EOC)
- Participation by 144 individuals, 57 facilities, and 15 agencies/organizations

Many thanks to the following agencies for their support and participation:

- USCG Sector New Orleans
- FBI New Orleans Cyber Task Force
- Port of New Orleans Harbor Police
- Plaquemines Port, Harbor, and Terminal District
- NOAA Slidell
- LSU Stephenson Disaster Management Institute
- ULL NIMSAT
- Norwich University (Nuari)
- Tulane Homeland Security Studies Program



### **About the Port of South Louisiana**

Strategically located between New Orleans and Baton Rouge, and encompassing fifty-four miles along the Lower Mississippi, the Port of South Louisiana is “America’s Largest tonnage Port”. The Port of South Louisiana, comprising three parishes (St. Charles, St. John, and St. Charles), accounts for over fifty percent of U.S. grain exports.

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For more information about the Port of South Louisiana, please contact Alexandra “Alex” Hernández, Public Information Officer, at (985) 652-9278 or [ahernandez@portsl.com](mailto:ahernandez@portsl.com), [www.portsl.com](http://www.portsl.com). For information on this particular topic, please contact Lester Millet III, Policy and Planning Director, at (985) 210-7518 or [lmillet@portsl.com](mailto:lmillet@portsl.com).